

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2001 LB 305, 543, 708

the bill. If the Governor had said that he would fund it, maybe he would and maybe he wouldn't. If he said he's not going to fund it, can he redline it? Can he line item veto it? He certainly can. Is it likely that he will? In my opinion, yes. He has already drawn a line in the sand. With all due respect to Senator Thompson, I don't believe she can muster enough to override the Governor's veto on something he doesn't want when there are other spending priorities that people have. Leaving it in the budget at this point is an exercise in futility. Here's what Senator Thompson and others can hope for; that nothing is going to be done on LB 305. We're going to scuttle that ship. That's the Titanic. This is one of those little inflatable inner tube type crafts. We're going to scuttle...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the Titanic. Then, because that ship has sunk, you might force the Governor into saying, well, I'll let the little inner tube go into port and I won't veto it out. On the other hand, he may be practical and will have the last word, and explain to the people that this is not a salary enhancement program, it's not going to keep anybody here who was not going to be here anyway, it's not going to draw anybody here who did not intend to come. It was the Legislature jumping the gun on funding he intended next year, so he vetoes it out. Will all this talk have been in vain? Uh-uh, not from my standpoint, because there are many fish to fry and many ways to fry them. I intend to fight this issue at this point and throughout the day, whenever opportunities present themselves.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Thompson, on AM1663.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. Again I bring you back to process. Senator Raikes mentioned LB 708 and his support of that. My understanding is that bill is still in committee. If it had gone to the floor and had been prioritized and had language to strike the bill...the law that we passed last year, or in some way was presented as a comparison to that bill, it would be a different thing. But it isn't. It didn't come out of committee. And so